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## We claim:

- 1. The use of polymers obtainable by
  - (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures of
    - (a) at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
    - (b) optionally a water-soluble monomer,
    - (c) optionally a further free-radically copolymerizable monomer
    - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
    - (e) at least one regulator, where compounds which comprise sulfur in bonded form are used as regulator (e),
  - (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer,
- in hair cosmetic preparations.
  - 2. The use of polymers obtainable by
- (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer
  30 mixtures of
  - (a) at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
  - (b) optionally a water-soluble monomer,
  - (c) optionally a further free-radically copolymerizable monomer
    - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
  - (e) at least one regulator, where compounds which comprise sulfur in bonded form are used as regulator(e),
- (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer,

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as conditioning agents in cosmetic preparations.

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- 3. The use as claimed in claim 2 in skin and/or hair cosmetic preparations.
- 4. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, where

  N-vinylimidazole derivatives of the formula (I), in which R<sup>1</sup>

  to R<sup>3</sup> are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>-alkyl or phenyl, are used as monomer

  (a)

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$$R^3$$
  $N$   $R^1$   $(I)$   $R^2$ 

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- 5. The use as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, where N-vinyllactams are used as monomer (b).
- 6. The use as claimed in claim 5, where thiols are used as regulator.
  - 7. A polymer obtainable by
- (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer
  30 mixtures of
  - (a) at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
  - (b) optionally at least one water-soluble monomer,
  - (c) optionally at least one further free-radically copolymerizable monomer
  - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
- 40 (e) at least one polyfunctional regulator
  - (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer.

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- 8. A polymer as claimed in claim 7, where N-vinylimidazole derivatives of the formula (I) in which  $R^1$  to  $R^3$  are hydrogen,  $C_1-C_4$ -alkyl or phenyl are used as monomer (a).
- 5 9. A polymer as claimed in claim 7, where vinyllactams are used as monomer (b).
  - 10. A polymer as claimed in claim 7, where compounds which comprise sulfur in bonded form are used as polyfunctional regulator (e).
  - 11. A polymer as claimed in claim 10, where thiols are used as polyfunctional regulator (e).
- 15 12. A polymer as claimed in claim 7 obtainable by
  - (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures of
- 20 (a) 1 to 99.98% by weight of at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
  - (b) 0 to 98.98% by weight of at least one water-soluble monomer,
  - (c) 0 to 50% by weight of at least one further free-radically copolymerizable monomer and
  - (d) 0.01 to 10% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
  - (e) 0.01 to 10% by weight of at least one polyfunctional regulator
  - (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer.
  - 13. A process for the preparation of polymers by free-radical initiated copolymerization of a monomer mixture of
    - (a) at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
  - (b) optionally at least one water-soluble monomer,
    - (c) optionally at least one further free-radically copolymerizable monomer
    - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds,
    - in the presence of a polyfunctional regulator (e)

and subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer.

## 5 14. A polymer obtainable by

- (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures of
- (a) 2 to 70% by weight of a cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer chosen from the group consisting of diallylamines of the formula (II), in which R4 is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-alkyl

15 N R<sup>4</sup>

and N,N-dialkylaminoalkyl acrylates and methacrylates and N,N-dialkylaminoalkylacrylamides and -methacrylamides of the formula (III),

where  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , independently, are a hydrogen atom or a methyl radical,  $R^7$  is an alkylene radical having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by alkyl radicals, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  are  $C_1-C_{24}$  alkyl radicals. Z is a nitrogen atom together with x=1 or is an oxygen atom together with x=0,

- (b) 22 to 97.98% by weight of at least one water-soluble monomer chosen from N-vinyllactams,
- (c) 0 to 50% by weight of at least one further free-radically copolymerizable monomer,
- (d) 0.01 to 10% by weight of at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
- (e) 0.01 to 10% by weight of at least one regulator

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- (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer.
- 5 15. A process for the preparation of polymers by free-radically initiated copolymerization of a monomer mixture of
- (a) 2 to 70% by weight of at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer chosen from the group consisting of diallylamines of the formula (II) in which R4 is C1-C24-alkyl

15 (II)

and N,N-dialkylaminoalkyl acrylates and methacrylates and N,N-dialkylaminoalkylacrylamides and -methacrylamides of the formula (III),

 $= \begin{array}{c} R^5 \\ (R^6)_x \\ Z - R^7 - NR^8 R^9 \end{array}$  (III)

where  $R^5$ ,  $R^6$ , independently, are a hydrogen atom or a methyl radical,  $R^7$  is an alkylene radical having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, optionally substituted by alkyl radicals, and  $R^8$ ,  $R^9$  are  $C_1$ - $C_{24}$ -alkyl radicals. Z is a nitrogen atom together with x = 1 or is an oxygen atom together with x = 0,

- (b) 22 to 97.98% by weight of at least one water-soluble monomer chosen from N-vinyllactams,
- 40 (c) optionally at least one further free-radically copolymerizable monomer,
  - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds,
- in the presence of a regulator (e)

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and subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer, if the monomer (a) is a nonquaternized monomer or an only partially quaternized monomer.

- 5 16. The use of the polymers as claimed in at least one of claims 7 to 12 and/or claim 14 in cosmetic preparations.
  - 17. The use of the polymers as claimed in at least one of claims 7 to 12 and/or claim 14 as conditioning agents.

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Crosslinked cationic copolymers with regulators and their use in hair cosmetic preparations

## 5 Abstract

The invention relates to the use of polymers obtainable by

- (i) free-radically initiated copolymerization of monomer mixtures10 of
  - (a) at least one cationic monomer or quaternizable monomer
  - (b) optionally a water-soluble monomer,
  - (c) optionally a further free-radically copolymerizable monomer
  - (d) at least one crosslinking monomer having at least two ethylenically unsaturated, nonconjugated double bonds, and
  - (e) at least one regulator

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- (ii) subsequent quaternization or protonation of the polymer if the monomer (a) used is a nonquaternized monomer or is an only partially quaternized monomer,
- 25 in hair cosmetic preparations.

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